

LIST OF ATTORNEYS
UNITED STATES EMBASSY BERLIN

(As of December 2005)

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The U.S. Embassy cannot assume responsibility for the professional ability or integrity of the persons or firms whose names appear in the following list. The names appear in alphabetical order; the order in which they appear has no other significance.

ENGLISH SPEAKING ATTORNEYS

JAN BECHER, of the law firm **BUSSE & MIESSEN**, Reinhardtstrasse 39, 10117 Berlin, Tel.: 030-22633640, Fax: 030-22633650, e-mail: buero.becher@berlin.busse-miessen.de, Internet: www.busse-miessen.de, born 1967, Hanau. Universities: Frankfurt/Main, Passau; internship in Dallas/Texas. Specializes in corporate and commercial law, intellectual property law and distribution law (agency and franchising contracts).

DONALD R. BLACK, Attorney-at-Law (USA) and legal practitioner for U.S. law (Hamburg), Herbert-Tschaepe-Str. 20, 10369 Berlin, Tel.: (030) 9789-5720, Fax.: (030) 9789-5721, e-mail DRBlack@nexgo.de or DRBlack@web.de. Born 1952, Portland, Oregon. Education: Portland State University (B.A. 1976), Western State University College of Law 1982 (J.D.); Member of American Bar Association, Indiana State Bar Association and Ausländischer Anwalt Verein Deutschland e.V. (Association of foreign lawyers in Germany). Admitted to Indiana state and federal bars (1983), U.S. Court of International Trade, U.S. Court of Military Appeals and U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit (1988), and licensed by Hamburg Amtsgericht (1986). General practice in American law emphasizing property law, business law, and administrative (including immigration law) and procedural law. Languages: German and English.

BUSE, HEBERER. FROMM, Kurfürstendamm 217, 10719 Berlin, Tel.: 3279-420, Fax.: 3279-4222. **DR. jur. ULRIKE SCHARIOTH**, born 1949, admitted to bar 1983. Specialist for family law. Universities of Bonn, Lausanne, Freiburg, Oxford. Specializes in family law, private international law. Languages: German, French and English. **HARTMUT FROMM**, born 1944, admitted to bar 1973. Universities of Heidelberg, Tübingen, Zürich and Bonn. Specializes in corporate law, commercial law, mergers and acquisitions, European Union Law, international tax law. Languages: German, French, English. **JASPER HAGENBERG, LL.M.**, born 1969, admitted to bar in New York 2002. Free University of Berlin and Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, NY. Specializes in corporate law, international contracts, international, international intellectual property law. Languages: German, English and Spanish.

CHRISTIAN MARTIN BUTH of the law and tax firm **RODEGRA RECHTSANWALTE**, (Berlin, Wuerzburg, New York City), Mauerstrasse 22, 10117 Berlin, (1/4 mile from Brandenburg Gate and US-embassy), Tel: (030) 20399520, Fax.: (030)20399529, email: info@anwaltskanzlei-rodegra.de, Internet www.anwaltskanzlei-rodegra.de, born 1971 Berlin, University: Berlin. Specializes in bank and stock exchange law, real estate, product liability, sports law and sponsoring. Handles estate cases. Languages: German, English, French.

THOMAS CRASEMANN, Panoramastrasse 1, 10178 Berlin, Tel.: (030) 2474 6020, Fax.: (030) 247 9378. Born 1947, Hamburg, Germany. University: Heidelberg; received advanced law degree. Practices landlord and tenant law, family law, criminal law and traffic law. Handles estate cases, trade disputes, and criminal cases. Notary. Languages: English, French and German.

ALEXANDER DAUER, Filchnerstrasse 53, 14482 Potsdam – Germany, Tel.: (0331)74000111, Fax.: (0331)7405519, Toll-Free 0800-726 9258 Hour Service, Toll-Free from the US 1-866-223 6513 24 Hour Service, www.ra-dauer.de, e-mail: info@ra-dauer.de, Specializes in traffic law, criminal law and general civil litigation. His partner specializes in family law. Languages: German and English.

Dr. Martin DUERR, of the law and tax firm, **BDHSW**, Zimmerstr. 69, 10117 Berlin, Tel.: (030) 2014-470, Fax.: (030) 2014-4711, duerr@bdhsw.de. Offices in Berlin and New York. Partner Dr. Martin DUERR, MCJ, admitted in Germany and New York. Universities: Heidelberg, Frankfurt, London School of Economics, New York University. General practice. Firm specializes in corporate, commercial law, real estate and construction, contract, antitrust, media and tax law. Languages: English, French, German.

ALEXANDER BARON VON ENGELHARDT, Wilhelmstrasse 94, 10117 Berlin, Tel.: (030) 8639-3080, Fax.: (030) 8639-3089, e-mail: ahoi@vonengelhardt.com, Internet: www.vonengelhardt.com, Born 1961, New York. University of Göttingen. Fields of profession: immigration law, collections, civil law, commercial law. Offer free legal newsletters referring interesting for English speaking foreigners in Germany after free registration by email over www.legal-guide.info.

EULITZ & SCHRADER, Kantstr. 13, 10623 Berlin, Tel.: (030) 315757-0, Fax.: (030) 315 757-99. Partners: **Dieter FEDER**, born 1939; **Detlef P.EULITZ**, born 1948; **Martin SCHRADER**, born 1955; **Dr. Nikolaus WUERTZ**, born 1951. General practice. Firm specializes in corporate law, East/West law (including joint-venture law), labor law, international arbitration, copyright, real estate, inheritance law and restitution law. Languages: English, French, Spanish, Swedish, Polish and German.

MOUNIR M. FARAG, Mommsenstr. 61, 10629 Berlin, Tel.: 882-6107, Fax.: 881-8269. Born 1956, Alexandria, Egypt. 1989 Admission to bar association of Berlin. Civil law office specializing in compensation law, contract and international contract law, insurance and liability law, international inheritance law.

FERDINAND FOLCH VON SYDOW, LL.M., Oranienburger Strasse 45, 10117 Berlin, Tel.: (030) 27572106, Fax: (030) 27572186, e-mail: f.folchvonszdow@gmx.de, LL.M. degree in South Africa in 1999. Specializes in family law incl. divorces and (international) law of succession, law of tenancy and sectional titles, law relating to traffic accidents and fines, legal services in any other area of civil law, law relating to aliens. Languages English and German.

LOTHAR FREMY of the law firm **ROSBACH & FREMY**, Neue Schoenhauser Str. 13, 10178 Berlin, Tel.: (030) 280 70 71/72, Fax.: (030) 280 70 74. Born 1957.

Partnership of attorneys-at-law specializes in restitution law for property in former East Germany, real estate law and inheritance law. Many years of experience with American clients. Does not handle criminal cases. Languages: English, German and Spanish.

MICHAEL GOEGER, LL.M., of the law firm **Schwenke & Schuetz**, Kurfuerstenstrasse 84, 10787 Berlin, Tel.: (030) 8857170, Fax: (030)88571733, e-mail: goeger@schwenke-schuetz.de, Internet: www.schwenke-schuetz.de, Specializes in commercial and private clients, company and commercial law, real estate law, construction law, private international law.

BERND R. GUENTSCHKE, Senior partner and notary in law offices Guentsche and Partner, Hubertusbaderstr. 14a, 14193 Berlin, Tel.: (030) 825 2085, Fax.: (030) 825 2080. Born 1942, Berlin. Universities: Berlin, Toulouse. Attorney, master's degree in law and business affairs. Specializes in corporate law, music business, national and international tax law, license law, national and international contracts and real estate matters. Languages: English, German and French.

HAARMANN, HEMMELRATH & PARTNER, Markgrafenstr. 33, 10117 Berlin, Tel.: (030) 264 73-0, Fax.: (030) 264 73 133. Partnership of attorneys-at-law, certified public accountants and tax advisors. Founded in Munich in 1987. Firm specializes in company and commercial law, bank and stock exchange law, mergers and acquisitions, real estate law, contract law, medical law, litigation, auditing, tax consultancy. Languages: English, French, Spanish, Italian, Czech, Russian, Japanese and German.

SYBILL HARDT, Kurfürstenstr. 84, 10787 Berlin, Tel.: 214-1574, Fax.: 217-7756. Born 1945. Free University of Berlin. Attorney at Law, Specializes in Estate Law, Inheritance Law, Contractual Law, Corporate Law, Criminal Law, International Law and Family Law. Also Notary Public. Languages: German, English, French.

JOERG-ANDRE HARNISCH, LL.M., Roscherstrasse 17, 10629 Berlin, Tel.: (030)3249039, Fax: (030) 324 9901, e-mail: Harnisch@RA-Harnisch.de, Attorney at Law, New York. Born 1971. Specialize in Contractual Law, Corporate Law, Criminal Law, International Law.

MICHAEL HEMPEL, Gosener Damm 19, 12559 Berlin, 12559 Berlin, Tel.: (030)65484938, Fax: (030) 65484939, Mobile: (0151)14008978, e-mail: maz_hempel@aquanet.co.il. Born in Frankfurt/Main, Studied Law in Frankfurt and did an internship in Frankfurt and LA and worked preferably as In House Counsel in Germany and Israel. Handles with the colleagues **Berg-Ritter** and **Fridman** Contractual Law, Competition Law, Criminal Law, Divorce Law and Labor Law. Languages: English, German, French and Hebrew.

DR. VOLKER HENKEL, Baseler Strasse 12, 12205 Berlin, Tel.: (030) 833 8132, Fax.: (030) 833 2158. Born 1934, Stettin. Universities: Berlin, Cologne, Munich, New York (Columbia University). Doctor of Law (American Law) and advanced law degree. Specializes in labor, commercial and contract law. Handles civil cases, particularly divorce, family and probate matters. Does not handle criminal cases. Languages: English, French, German and Spanish. Certified English translator.

HERWIG, GOTTWALD & COLLEGEN, Kurfuerstendamm 178/179, 10707 Berlin, Tel.: (030) 89092471/2, Fax.: (030)89092473. e-mail: mail@notar-herwig.de, Born 1953 in Wolfsburg, University Goettingen, admitted to bar 1989. Specializes in commercial law, restitution law, property law, real estate law, inheritance law, medical law, public construction and planning law. Also Notary Public. Languages: English, German, French.

DR. CLAUD HEUCHEMER, of the firm **HOFFMANN LIEBS FRITSCH & PARTNER**, Neustaedtische Kirchstrasse 6, 10117 Berlin. Tel.: 206267-112, Fax.: 206267-212, Mobil: 0172-3862075, e-mail: claus.heucheme@hlfp.de, Internet: www.hlfp.de, qualified as an attorney-at-law in 1974. He is a corporate lawyer who specializes in corporate finance and M&A as well as the privatization of municipal and state-owned services and supply utilities. Dr. Heuchemer also has particular expertise in entrepreneurial succession-planning and large industrial-estate development. Languages: German and English.

DIETRICH JACOB, Duesseldorfer Strasse 32, 10707 Berlin, Tel.: (030) 883 7041, Fax.: (030) 882 5127. Born 1922, Berlin. University: Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas. Lawyer and Notary. Specializes in inheritance law, American inheritance, tax law, transfer of U.S. shares, international matrimonial law, real estate and restitution. Does not handle criminal cases. Languages: English and German.

WILFRIED JAENECKE, Law-firm **RODIG, JAENECKE, ANDRES & SCHREIER**, partner of the offices in Berlin, Frankfurt am Main and Leipzig, Schützenstr. 5, 10117 Berlin, Tel.: (030) 240793-0, Fax.: (030) 240793-33. Born 1949, Halle, Germany. University: Martin-Luther-University. Attorney and Notary. General practice including real estate law (claims and real covenants). Languages: English and German.

EGBERT KATZNER, Wielandstrasse 36, 12159 Berlin, Tel.: (030) 851 7858, 851 8095/96, Fax.: (030) 851 5627. Born 1932. Universities: Berlin, Cologne. Cooperates with the Institute for Comparative Law and International Private Law in Cologne. Specializes in patent law, inheritance matters in the U.S. Languages: English and German.

KEIPER & ELZE, Landshuter Str. 22, 10779 Berlin, Tel: (030) 211 5057, Fax.: (030) 211 7079. Partners: **Ulrich KEIPER**, born Obermoschel. Universities: Tuebingen, Berlin; **Renate ELZE**, born 1947, Berlin. University: Berlin. Firm handles German and international civil and commercial law, contract and arbitration law, divorce, inheritance law and notariats. Languages: English, German and French.

PAUL A. KIEFER, Klingelhofer Str. 5, 10785 Berlin, Tel.: (030) 240 85 212, Fax.: (030) 240 85 213. Born 1941, Pennsylvania, USA. Universities: Columbia University (LL.M in International Law), Villanova Law School (Juris Doctor), Rutgers University (B.S. & B.A.). General practice includes, among other areas, U.S. income, inheritance and estate taxes, insurance, probate issues, commercial, real estate and corporate law. Maintains contact with former law firm in Washington, D.C. Languages: English and German.

DONALD KOBLITZ, Dorfstr. 36, 14548 Ferch, Tel.: (033209) 72876, Fax.: (033209) 70113. Born 1953, New York, USA. Universities: Columbia College, Stanford. Practice includes real estate law, international law, corporate law. Languages: English, Japanese, French and German.

URSUS KOERNER VON GUSTORF of the Law firm **FRIEDRICH & KOERNER VON GUSTORF**, Muenchener Str. 16, 10779 Berlin, Tel. (030) 21 23 29 21, Fax: (030) 21 23 29 22, e-mail: koerner@friedrichkoerner.de, Partnership of attorneys specializing in criminal law, international criminal law and extradition. Internet: www.friedrichkoerner.de Languages: English, German.

FRANK KORNBLUM, Liselotte-Hermann-Str. 38, 10407 Berlin, Tel.: 4285-9503, Fax.: 4285-9504. Born 1968, Canada. University: Free University Berlin, graduated 1995. General practice specializing in criminal law. Languages: English and German.

DR. RICHARD LEHMANN, Fasanenstr. 44, 10719 Berlin, Tel.: (030) 881 8375, Fax.: (030) 881 8409. Born 1917, Berlin. Universities: Berlin, Kiel. Doctor of Jurisprudence; notary. Specializes in civil law; does not handle criminal cases. Partner: Thorsten KOESTER who specializes in traffic law. Languages: English, German and French.

TIMOTHY D. MANQUEN, Hardenbergstrasse 19, 10623 Berlin, Tel.: (030) 852 0371, Fax.: (030) 851 5951. e-mail: mlksk@t-online.de. Born 1947, Michigan, USA. University: Berlin. Specializes in tax, labor, international corporation, contract and inheritance law, family matters. Notary. Languages: German, English and Spanish.

MELCHERS, Rosenthaler Strasse 42, 10178 Berlin, Tel.: 030-280178-0, Fax.: 030-28384521, The law firm founded 1973, employs more than 30 attorneys, certified public accountants and tax consultants who advise and legally present the clients in all fields of business law. Languages: English, German.

ELISABETH MUELLER, SCHLOSSSTRASSE 49, 12165 Berlin, Tel.: (030)79749124, Fax: (030)79749126, Specializes in social law, family law, traffic law and problems concerning the employment relationship.

DR. KERSTIN NIETHAMMER-JÜRGENS, Kanzlei Behrendt & Jürgens, Hebbelstr. 31, 14469 Potsdam, Tel.: (0331) 281-5660, Fax.: (0331) 2815670. Born 1959, Mainz. Graduated 1985 from University of Würzburg. Specializes in international family law, child custody, child abduction. Languages: German and English.

DR. MANFRED PAPE, Law firm **PAPE, PERSIKE & PARTNER**, Schuetzenstr. 18, 10117 Berlin, Tel.: (030) 201 2257/8/9, Fax.: (030) 201 2260. Born 1934. Humboldt-University, Berlin. General practice, disputes concerning building contracts; does not handle criminal cases. Notary. Languages: English and German.

CHRISTOPH PAUL, Eisenacher Str. 1, 10777 Berlin, Tel.: (030) 217 6869, Fax.: 214 1757, Internet www.ra-paul.de. Born 1950, Oldenburg, Germany. University of Freiburg. Specializes in international civil law, including divorce and inheritance law, real estate law and claims for restitution and compensation in the former German Democratic Republic. Notary. Languages: English and German.

DR. DIETRICH PIELSTICKER, Law firm **PIELSTICKER & PARTNER**, Kurfuerstendamm 56, 10707 Berlin, Tel.: (030) 327 9830, Fax.: (030) 327 983 10, E-mail info@pielsticker.de. Born 1954 in Essen. Universities: Berlin, Freiburg and Munich. Admitted to German Bar 1986 and Bar in New York State 1989. 1983 consultant to law firm in Washington, D.C.; 1988-1989 with law firm Herz Herzfeld & Rubin, P.C. New York. Handles business and corporate law, merger and acquisition contracts, labor law, family law, real estate and banking, law property claims in eastern Germany, negotiations etc. with Treuhandanstalt. Notary. Languages: English and German.

GERHARD RICHTER, of the firm **RICHTER & WITT**, Kurfuerstendamm 199, 10719 Berlin, Tel.: (030) 8867 9635, Fax. (030) 8867 9638. Born Erlangen 1961. Universities: Erlangen-Nuernberg, Muenster, Sonoma State University and Berlin. Handles all types of cases in criminal and general civil law. Specializes in insurance law and law relating to road traffic violations, constitutional, administrative, environmental, public construction and planning law, associations, societies and sports law. Languages: English and German.

DR. JUERGEN RODEGRA, LL.M. of the law and tax firm **RODEGRA RECHTSANWAELTE**, (Berlin, Wuerzburg, New York City), Mauerstrasse 22, 10117 Berlin, (1/4 mile from Brandenburg Gate and US-embassy), Tel: (030) 20399520, Fax.: (030)20399529, email: info@anwaltskanzlei-rodegra.de, Internet www.anwaltskanzlei-rodegra.de, born 1958 Hamburg, Universities: Hamburg, Berlin, Freiburg and Ithaka, N.Y. (Cornell law school, LL.M. 1989), admitted to New York state bar (1993). Member of American Bar Association. General practice in US-law emphasizing corporate and commercial law. Specializes in national and international contract law, administrative law, corporate finance and tax law, European Union law, IT-law and medical law. Litigation. Handles trade disputes, merger and acquisition contracts, privatization of municipal and state-owned services. Languages: German, English, French and Spanish.

ANDREAS J. ROQUETTE, of the firm **HASCHE, ESCHENLOHR, PELTZER, RIESENKAMPFF, FISCHOETTER**, Markgrafenstr. 36, 10117 Berlin, Tel.: (030) 20360-0, Fax.: (030) 20360-290. The law firm is engaged in the general practice of law and has an extensive notarial practice in Berlin. Born 1962 in Frankfurt am Main, Germany. Education: Study of law in Germany and abroad: Paris (Maitrise en Droit, 1986); Munich (Staatsexamine); New York University (LL.M.1992). Specializes in commercial and corporate law, trusts and estates, and building law. Admitted to practice in Germany and New York. Languages: German, English and French.

KATHRIN JULIA SACHSENBERG, Kantstraße 154 A/Ecke Fasanenstrasse, 10623 Berlin, Tel (030) 315 90 77-0, Cell: 0170-7764370, Fax.: (030) 315 90 77-2, Born 1945. University: Munich. Specializes in civil and criminal law. Languages: English, German and French.

UWE SCHARNHORST, Konstanzer Str. 10, 10707 Berlin, Tel.: (030) 882 4931, Fax.: (030) 882 1401. Born 1950, Hannover. Universities: Berlin, Freiburg, Hamburg. Specializes in international civil law, civil liability of physicians, aliens' law. Notary. Languages: English, German and French.

DR. GERHARD SCHREIER, Law firm **RODIG, JAENECKE, ANDRES & SCHREIER**. Senior partner of the office in Berlin. Above firm is closely connected with the American law firm BUCHANAN-INGERSOLL, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Schützenstr. 5, 10117 Berlin, Tel.: (030) 240793-0, Fax.: (030) 240793-33. Born 1930. Attorney and Notary. General practice. Years of experience with regard to international inheritance cases; does not handle criminal cases. Languages: English and German.

DR. ULRICH THIEME, Uhlandstr. 171/172, 10719 Berlin, Tel.: (030) 881 1070 and (030) 881 1126, Fax.: (030) 882 3825, e-mail TLB-Berlin@t-online.de. Born 1942, Zittau, Germany. Universities: Berlin, Paris, Geneva, research work at Berkeley (California). Doctor of Jurisprudence, advanced law degree, notary. Specializes in family law, real estate law, inheritance law. Languages: English, German and French.

DR. MANFRED VOGEL, Trabener Str. 58a, 14193 Berlin, Tel.: (030) 893 8310, Fax.: (030) 8938 3125. Born 1947, Leipzig, Germany. Universities: Berlin, Innsbruck. Doctor of Jurisprudence. Specializes in labor and criminal law, tenant rights, and labor law; handles estate cases. Languages: English, German, Spanish and Russian.

WENDLER & TREMML, Schumannstr. 5, 10117 Berlin, Tel.: 2804-6360, Fax.: 2804-6361. Offices in Düsseldorf, Munich, Brussels and Warsaw. Partner **DR. BERND TREMML**, MCJ. Born 1944. Admitted in Germany and Texas. Universities: Erlangen, Munich, University of Texas. Specializes in international administrative law and computer/IT law. Languages: German, English, French. **RAIMUND E. WALCH**, Universities: Erlangen, Montpellier. Specializes in private construction law and computer law. Languages: German, English and French.

MICHAEL-LARS WITT, of the firm **RICHTER AND WITT**, Kurfuerstendamm 199, 10719 Berlin, Tel.: (030) 8867 9635, Fax.: 8867 9638. Born Berlin 1961. University: Berlin. Handles all types of cases except immigration, family law, divorce cases. Specializes in corporate and commercial law. All property claims including the former GDR and private construction law. Languages: German and English.

WOEHLERMANN LORENZ & PARTNER, Dircksenstrasse 40, 10178 Berlin, Tel: (030)2888300, Fax.: (030)28883090, Admitted as a German attorney and as an attorney at law in the state of New York and does practice law in Germany. Handles International Law and Accounting, Specializes in Conflict Specializes Languages: German, English, French, Turkish

DR. JÖRG ZÄTZSCH, of the firm **HASCHE, SIGLE, ESCHENLOHR PELTZER**, Markgrafenstr. 36, 10117 Berlin, Tel.: 20360-221, Fax.: 20360-290. Born 1970. Universities: Freiberg and Tulane University, New Orleans. Specializes in merger and acquisition law, international business transaction law, information technology law and civil procedures. Languages: German and English.

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RETAINING A FOREIGN ATTORNEY

In retaining the services of a foreign attorney concerning a private dispute abroad, the following guidelines may assist you in protecting your interests.

1. Selecting an Attorney

When you receive a list of attorneys, it is recommended that you contact several attorneys, briefly describing the nature of the services you desire. Before you decide which attorney to engage, request a written schedule of fees generally charged for the services you need, inquire whether the attorney is fluent in the English language, and become acquainted with a particular attorney. Do not submit any documents or funds until you are sure that the attorney understands your problem and is willing to handle your case.

2. Barristers and Solicitors

In some foreign countries, districts, or provinces it may be necessary for you to retain the services of both a solicitor and a barrister. In such jurisdiction, barristers are allowed to appear in court, including superior courts and courts of appeal. Solicitors are allowed to advise clients, represent them in the lower courts and prepare cases for barristers to try in the higher courts.

3. Notaries Public, “Notaries” and “Huissiers”

In some foreign countries, notaries public, “notaries” and “huissiers” can perform many of the functions performed by attorneys in the United States. For example, foreign notaries frequently draft instruments, wills, and conveyances. In some countries, a notary public is an official, appointed by the Ministry of Justice, whose functions include not only the preparation of documents, but the administration and settlement of estates. Such notaries may serve as repositories for wills and are empowered to serve legal documents. (In some countries, “huissiers” serve documents.) They are not lawyers, but are very specialized members of the legal profession. They may not plead cases in court.

4. Coordination with Counsel in the U.S.

American attorneys may not be in a position to represent your interests abroad, particularly because they will not be permitted to participate in foreign court proceedings under the laws of the foreign country. American attorneys experienced in international law may be helpful in explaining the complex international issues involved in your case and some may have associates or partners abroad to whom they can refer you.

5. Legal Aid Associations

There may be facilities in a foreign country for low cost or free legal services. Ask the local bar association or the Ministry of Justice about the availability of legal aid. You may also wish to consult the “Directory of Legal Aid and Advice Facilities Available Throughout the World”, published by the International Legal Aid Association. The address of the association is : c/o The International Bar Association, 2 Harewood Place, Hannover Square, London W1R 9HB, England, Tel.: 716291206. See also, “The Availability of Legal Services to Poor People and People of Limited Means in Foreign Systems”, *International Lawyer*, Vol. 6, No. 1, p. 128, 1971.

6. How to Deal with Your Foreign Attorney

Always research the attorney’s qualifications and experience. Find out how the attorney plans to represent you. Ask specific questions and expect the attorney to explain legal activities in a language that you can understand. Ask what fees the attorney, notary, or huissier charges and how the attorney expects to be paid. Notaries and huissiers are usually government officials who must charge fees established by their government. Some attorneys may expect to be paid in advance; some may demand payment after each action they take on your behalf, refusing to take further action until they are paid. Some may take the case on a percentage basis, collecting a pre-arranged percentage of the moneys awarded to you by the foreign court. In 1976, the Law Library of the Library of Congress prepared a report entitled “Payment of Attorneys Fees in European Countries”. You can obtain a copy of this report by contacting the Library of Congress directly at:

Room 240, James Madison Building, 101 Independence Ave., S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20540, Tel.: (202) 287-5065.

Ask that your attorney keep you informed of the progress of your case according to a pre-established schedule. Remember that most court calendars are crowded. You may, therefore, wish to ask the attorney to send you monthly reports, even though no real developments have ensued, simply to satisfy your doubts about the progress of the case. Have your attorney analyze your case, giving you the positive and negative aspects and probable outcome. Do not expect your attorney to give a simple answer to a complex legal problem. Be sure that you understand the technical language in any contract or other legal document prepared by your attorney before you sign it. Keep your attorney informed of any new developments in the case. If you need to provide complex or technical documents to your attorney, you may wish to consider having the documents translated into the native language. An elementary knowledge of English may not be enough to enable the attorney to understand the documents you provide. Tell the attorney every relevant fact in order to get the best representation of your interests. Find out how much time the attorney anticipates the case may take to complete. Request copies of all letters and documents prepared on your behalf.

7. Assistance of the Department of State

If you have additional questions, you may contact:

Office of Citizen Consular Services

Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520
Tel.: (202) 647-3444.

8. Complaints against Foreign Attorneys

If the services of your attorney prove unsatisfactory, in addition to notifying the Department of State and the U.S. Embassy or Consulate abroad, you may address your complaints to the local (foreign) bar association.